

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03743 291401Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 SR-02

ORM-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

----- 035389

O 291055Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4327

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 3743

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SREF VS

SUBJECT: TITLE II RICE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF : (A) SAIGON 3516; (B) STATE 071094 (AIDAC)

1. OUR FIRST REACTION TO REF B WAS THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY A GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN IN COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM ALL NEWS ABOUT VIETNAM FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS. OUR SECOND REACTION WAS THAT IT WAS FORTUNATE THERE ARE FEW LEAKS IN SAIGON, SINCE ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT QUESTIONS FROM THE CONSTANTLY INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICAN TV AND PRINT JOURNALLISTS IS WHY THE USG IS SO SLOW TO RESPOND TO THE URGENT NEED CREATED BY THE GREAT NUMBER OF NEW REFUGEES CAUSED BY THE MASSIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE INVASION.

2. EVER SINCE REF A, THE DIMENSIONS OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM HAVE VASTLY GROWN. IF AIR AND SEA LIFT CAN BE MOUNTED, ALMOST TWO MILLION CAN NOW BE EXPECTED SINCE IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT DANANG CANNOT HOLD. THAT RICE WILL BE DESPERATELY NEEDED IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL AMERICAN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HERE. THEY HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03743 291401Z

BEEN ASSURED BY AMB DURING RECENT VISIT OF CONGRESSIONAL

GROUP THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED IN WASHINGTON THAT 100,000 TONS OF PL-480 RICE HAD BEEN SET ASIDE UNDER TITLE II BY AGREEMENT WITH SEN HUMPHREY FOR EMERGENCY REFUGEE FEEDING PROGRAM IF REQUIRED. NOW WE ARE INFORMED IN PARA 1 OF REF B THAT, WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH MISSION IN SAIGON, AN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NEEDED. OUR DISPASSIONATE ASSESSMENT IS THAT WHEN AND IF THIS BECOMES KNOWN ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE IN VOLAG CIRCLES BOTH HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES. ONLY LAST THURSDAY, ARCHBISHOP BERNANDIN, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, CALLED FOR GREATLY INCREASED HUMANITARIAN AID TO "PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS GHASTLY WAR." THE VOLAGS HERE FULLY SUPPORT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE UNDER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTRY DAN WHO WILL USE THEM TO THEIR FULLEST CAPACITY IN MEETING THE ENORMOUS NEEDS IN THE COMING WEEKS. THEREFORE, WE WOULD INTEND A GOVT-TO-GOVT AGREEMENT WITH THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF THE VOLAGS ALREADY ASSURED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR CAPACITIES.

3. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REASSURING TO HAVE RECEIVED AN EXPEDITIOUS AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO OUR CABLE TO PROVIDE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO THE GVN AT THIS TIME OF NEED. THE NEWS THAT VIETNAM WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ABSORB THE ENTIRETY OF THE REDUCTION IN THE IPR APPROPRIATION ARRIVED HERE AFTER THE OFFENSIVE WAS WELL UNDERWAY AND JUST AS THE GVN WAS FORMULATING APPEALS TO ALL DONORS TO INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH THE APPROPRIATION LEVEL ORIGINATED BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE BEGAN, IT WAS HARD TO PERSUADE THE GVN THAT THE REDUCED ALLOCATION WAS NOT A DELIBERATE BLOW AIMED AT CRIPPLING THEM FURTHER. WE WILL NOT INFORM GVN OF WASHINGTON'S QUESTIONING OF THEIR NEED FOR RICE IN THE FIRM EXPECTATION THAT THE USG CAN ASSURE THEM EARLY NEXT WEEK THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE REFUGEE RELIEF OF THE 100,000 TONS PREVIOUSLY HELD IN RESERVE.

MARTIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RICE, REFUGEES, PL 480 TITLE 2  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SAIGON03743  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750110-0613  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975034/aaaaadef.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SAIGON 3516, 75 STATE 071094  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TITLE II RICE FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** EAID, SREF, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006